

Florida Vital Statistics Makes the National “Honor Roll” Once Again

We are proud to announce that Florida Vital Statistics has once again made the national “Honor Roll” of vital registration jurisdictions in the U.S. Begun in 2009, the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) does an assessment of how the various national vital records registration jurisdictions perform, based on a set core of performance measures. Florida has made the “Honor Roll” since its inception two years ago. The intent is to assist the districts in voluntary self-assessment and to encourage improvement of data timeliness, quality and usefulness. If jurisdictional performance increases as a result of these efforts, then the national vital statistics system will also be enhanced. How states “measure up” is usually announced at the annual conference held each June.

This year’s conference was in St. Louis, Missouri. Garland Land, NAPHSIS Executive Director, made the presentation to the members on the 2010 Performance. There were nine performance measures by which states were judged:

1. Timeliness of 2008 birth records submitted to NCHS
2. Timeliness of 2008 demographic death records submitted by NCHS
3. 2007 recorded birth records under 500 grams linked to a death record
4. 2008 deaths with underlying cause of death codes that are not ill-defined codes
5. Availability of Web-based Data Query System (WDQS)
6. Timeliness of issuing certified birth copies
7. Restricted access to birth records
8. Electronic birth records go back to 1935 for Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE)
9. Electronic death records go back to 2000 for EVVE

Eleven states were designated as “outstanding” by meeting eight or more out of the nine performance measures. Florida was listed among those outstanding states.

Our performance was made possible by the hard work and dedication of many offices and units within the Department of Health of Health Statistics and Assessment. As we move forward with electronic registration of births and deaths, data is timelier and the quality of the data is better. Partnering with NAPHSIS and working with other states strengthens all of us and with that strength comes the ability to provide better public health data for all citizens, to help improve the quality of all our lives.

In This Issue

- NAPHSIS Honor Roll
- Changes in Latitude
- Newest QA Member
- Spotlight on Monroe County
- Cause of Death Online Tutorial
- Welcome Aboard
- Let’s Get Physical
- Florida by the Numbers
- e-Vitals Online Training
- Bits ‘N Pieces

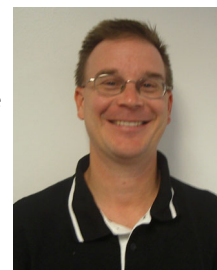
Changes in Latitude

Lane Pirtle, formerly of the Medical Classification Unit, has moved into the position of Health Services manager of the Death, Fetal Death, Marriage, and Divorce Unit. Lane has 20 years of vital statistics experience, and brings with her a wealth of cause of death knowledge which will bode well for the unit.



Newest member of QA

With the upcoming implementation of Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), the Quality Assurance Unit has added an additional member. The latest to join our group is Kenny Higginbotham as the EDRS project lead. Kenny comes to us from the Death/Marriage/Divorce Unit where he has been the Health Services Manager for the past twelve years. We’re sure you’ll be just as pleased as we are to have Kenny on our team!!





Spotlight on... Monroe County

Monroe County is the southernmost county in Florida and the United States. It is made up of the Florida Keys and portions of the Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. These parts are mostly uninhabited mainland areas. Best known are the Florida Keys with its string of islands connected by U.S. Highway 1, which ends in Key West, 150 miles southwest of Miami. In total area, Monroe County is comprised of 3,737 square miles, mostly of water, 73%. Just miles offshore on the Atlantic side of the keys is the only living coral reef in the continental United States. No point, in the Keys, is more than four miles from water. Monroe County starts in the north at mile marker 112 and ends to the southern tip of the continental US mile marker 0, a popular tourist destination.

On July 2, 1823, an act of the Territorial Legislature established Monroe County as the 6th county in the Florida territory. Monroe County was named after then President James Monroe, our 5th U.S. President. Five years after Monroe County was established, Key West was incorporated and became the county seat. Population at the time was less than 600 people. Today's population is over 81 thousand.

At the height of the cigar industry in Key West, there were approximately 200 cigar factories producing 100 million hand rolled cigars annually. Today, one of these cigar factories is home to county offices, in Gato Building. There you will find the hardworking staff led by Chief Deputy Registrar MaryAnn Burrin. Her crew includes Deputy Registrars Brian Blair, Jennifer Duyser, and Jillian Lorenz. Bob Eadie is the county's Local Registrar. On June 7th, MaryAnn celebrated 25 years with the health department, in which 19 of the years have been specifically with Vital Statistics! Last year, the team issued 1403 birth certificates and 3587 death certificates. Monroe's vitals staff services four funeral homes in the county, one of which was established in 1869 and is still operated by the same family. Along with the local county funeral homes, MaryAnn's office serves funeral homes in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Lee, and Collier counties. It was two years ago in May when the county's sole birthing hospital, Lower Keys Medical Center, went electronic with their birth certificates.

From the Conch Republic, MaryAnn and her bunch will continue giving the best customer service to their community. It just may include a colorful umbrella in it!

Monroe County staff pictured from left to right: Jennifer Duyser, Mary Van Brook, Brian Blair, Jillian Lorenz, MaryAnn Burrin, and Bob Eadie



Schools are back in session. Watch out for those precious ones!



Cause of Death Online Tutorial

The Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, in cooperation with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) and the Florida Association of Medical Examiners (FAME) has developed an online tutorial for Florida physicians. The Cause of Death (COD) tutorial was built to assist the physician in putting their diagnosis onto our record in the correct format as recognized by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Information is provided to help the physician understand their statutory responsibility in completing the medical information on the death record. The tutorial addresses how the data from the death record is used for public health purposes, and how the record is of grave importance to families in closing out the business of the deceased loved one, as well as, gaining closure for the fact of the death.

Vital Statistics is excited to be able to offer this tutorial to Florida physicians and an added bonus is that the FMA has granted one complimentary continuing education credit for the successful completion of the course. The course can be found at: www.floridavitalstatisticsonline.com.

Questions on the tutorial should be directed to Quality Assurance, 904-359-6900, ext 9020.

You can now find Florida Department of Health Vital Statistics quicker and easier, at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html

Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Chief Deputy Registrar

Melodie A Waits.....Sarasota County
Mark A Lemke.....Collier County

Local Registrars

Stephen Gordon MD...Hardee County
Mark Lundberg.....Wakulla County

Let's Get Physical



In a mid-May weekly health tip from our state surgeon general, Dr. Ana Viamonte Ross, she suggested for National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month for employees to engage in regular weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise. Well, folks at the Bureau of Laboratories and Bureau of Vital Statistics took it seriously and put those words into action.

During the observance of public health week, staff from both offices engaged in a friendly game of flag football; it was so much fun. An enthusiastic and energetic group brainstormed and developed a break schedule to include physical activities such as yoga, walking aerobics, karaterobics (pictured, Marilyn Nevado and Kevin Wright), line dancing, latin dancing, and virtual hula-hoop. Each workday, there are anywhere from 3-4 classes offered lead by volunteer employees. It has caught on so well, people are starting to spread the energy outside the brick exterior. Kitty Bell from the Vital Statistic's Medical Coding Unit has taken cues from the line dancing and has started her own break time fun in the community where she lives. "We've had a great turnout so far. It's great exercise but most of all, we're having a YEEHAW time", boasts Kitty Bell.

Florida by the Numbers

- **1917** is the year Florida Model Vital Statistics Act put into effect
- **912** funeral establishments
- **118** hospitals who have regular obstetric service
- **3rd** – the US ranking of Winnie Palmer Hospital in number of deliveries
- **2006** is the year Baptist Medical Center South in Jacksonville became the first hospital to file birth certificates electronically
- **1865** is the year of the oldest known records located in the City of Key West
- **78,703** divorces in 2009
- **139,100** marriages in 2009
- **221,635** recorded births in 2009
- **171,320** recorded deaths in 2009
- **79.2** years was the age expectancy of a person to live born in 2008
- **24.6%** of all deaths were a result of heart disease, the leading cause of death in 2008
- **5.2%** decrease in the number of marriages between 2007 and 2008
- Of the **79,868** dissolutions of marriage in 2008, over half (55.2%) did not affect any minor children
- **15,047** marriages performed in May 2008 make it the most popular month for couples to make it official
- **20,978** is the highest dissolutions of marriage within 5-9 years of the marriage
- **688** residential accidental deaths for persons under 19
- **71** adults age 45-54 dies from drowning/submersion compared to 77 children under the age of 10
- **3** deaths related to lightning strikes in 2008
- **0** persons died of shark bites in 2008
- **18,812,155** Florida's population in 2008. This represents a 0.4% increase from the 2007 population

Source: Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2008

e-Vitals Online Training

Further training on e-Vitals continued with chapters 3 and 4. The objective for chapter 3 was to learn how to complete the AFS and RER screens in the Fee/CAS menu. The Fee/CAS menu is used to enter applicant information and the services they are requesting. We also reviewed a few reports that are used for daily teller closeout and can help monitor business. Chapter 4 discussed the Administration menu. This lesson focused on how to change passwords, maintain users, and maintaining the table of companies.

For those who are training new employees on e-Vitals, chapter 3 should be taught first, therefore, it has been re-named to chapter 1. So, for those keeping track, chapter 1 is AFS/RER Training, chapter 2 is Printing and Document Tracking, chapter 3 is Setting Sequence and Tools Preference, and chapter 4 is Administration Menu.

We had a great turnout for the last chapters and are always looking for ideas on future lessons.

BITS 'N PIECES

EBR Birth Registrars –In cases where the mother is married but "Refuses Husband's Information", avoid telling the mother that once she gets divorced she can have the biological father added to the birth record via a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit (DH432). If the mother or biological father should inquire, they should be directed to the Paternity Unit at the State Office, (904-359-6900, x9004) to explain the requirements for changing the record.

You have powers you never dreamed of. You can do things you never thought you could do. There are no limitations in what you can do except the limitations of your mind.

~ Darwin P Kingsley

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